

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
29 January 2004 (29.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/009576 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C07D 311/36 (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/EP2003/007575

(22) International Filing Date: 14 July 2003 (14.07.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
02016494.3 23 July 2002 (23.07.2002) EP

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): DSM IP ASSETS B.V. [NL/NL]; Het Overloon 1, NL-6411 TE Heerlen (NL).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): BURDET, Bruno [FR/FR]; 18, Rue du Moulin, F-68390 Baldersheim (FR). RUETTIMANN, August [CH/CH]; Hollenweg 24, CH-4144 Arlesheim (CH).

(74) Agent: PANES, Nigel; Wurmisweg 576, CH-4303 Kaiser-augst (CH).

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:  
— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 13 May 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2004/009576 A3

(54) Title: MANUFACTURE OF ISOFLAVONES

(57) **Abstract:** A process for manufacturing a hydroxylated isoflavone of the formula (I) given in the description comprises reacting an appropriately substituted 2-hydroxydeoxybenzoin of the formula (II), also given in the description, with a formic acid anhydride of the formula HCOOCOR<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> signifies C<sub>2-20</sub>-alkyl or various other groups as given in the description, in the presence of a base or in a solvent which acts as a base, and if necessary promoting the ensuing hydrolysis of the so-produced acylated form of the hydroxylated isoflavone of the formula I by acidification. Of particular interest as products of this process are the 5,7-dihydroxyisoflavones, e.g. genistein (5,7,4'-trihydroxyisoflavone). Isoflavones display many useful biochemical effects.